

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1943

DEPTO 05

EXDIS

FOR SONNENFELDT, HARTMAN, ROBINSON AND ENDERS FROM
INGERSOLL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.)

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DELABOULAYE

1. DURING PARIS STOPOVER ON SEPTEMBER 2, I HAD OPPOR-
TUNITY FOR BRIEF BUT FRIENDLY AND CANDID CONVERSATION
WITH MY OLD FRIEND, DELABOULAYE AT THE QUAI (HE HAD
BEEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO DURING MY TENURE THERE).

2. TALKING PREPCON, DELABOULAYE OBSERVED TAHT THE US
HAD DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY SINCE THE
EARLIEST STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN CONTRAST
TO THE ALGERIANS, FOR EXAMPLE. HE COMMENTED THAT
ALGERIA OBVIOUSLY FEARS SPLITS IN THE THIRD WORLD, THERE-
FORE IS WORKING VERY HARD TO HOLD THE LINE. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH LDCS, AND COMMENTED THAT
THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO THE SPECIAL UNGA ON THE PREVIOUS
DAY WAS WELL RECEIVED WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

3. HE CHARACTERIZED FRENCH ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AS "NOT GOOD",
WITH 800,000 UNEMPLOYED NOW AND A FORECAST OF 1.2
MILLION UNEMPLOYED BY NEXT FEBRUARY. HE COULD NOT PROVIDE
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ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW ECONOMIC

PROGRAM WHICH GISCARD WAS SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE ON SEPTEMBER 4 EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE WOULD BE \$5 BILLION, OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD WOULD BE CREDITS FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT. HE ALSO ARGUES THAT THE US SHOULD MOVE AWAY FROM RESTRICTIONS ON OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY AND REFLATE, WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIES AS WELL.

4. CONTINUING A SUBJECT WHICH WE HAD OFTEN DISCUSSED IN TOKYO, DELABOULAYE SAID US-FRENCH RELATIONS SEEM MUCH HEALTHIER NOW THAN THEY WERE TWO YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, HE STILL BELIEVES AMERICAN COMMENTATORS AND SOME LEGISLATORS REACT TO EVERY NEW FRENCH POLICY AS FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-AMERICAN. HE ARGUED THAT FRANCE MUST HAVE A SEPARATE POSITION AS A "NECESSITY" FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES, BUT THAT THIS COULD HAVE ITS UTILITY FOR BROADER INTERESTS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE PREDICTED THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN FLANK OF THE ALLIANCE WILL BE IN CRISIS FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS. HE STATED THAT EUROPE IS "READY TO BECOME THE SECOND PILLAR" OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND SERVE AS A "NET" FOR WHAT HE CONSTRUES AS THE BRILLIAN BUT SOMETIMES RISKY INITIATIVES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

5. DELABOULAYE PLANS TO COME TO THE US AROUND SEPTEMBER 20 TO SPEND THREE DAYS AT THE UN BEFORE PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON FOR ANOTHER -3-4 DAYS. HE HOPES ON THAT OCCASION TO MEET WITH INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE PRESS IN ORDER TO COUNTER WHAT HE VIEWS AS HOSTILE REACTIONS TO FRENCH POLICY. I TOLD HIM THAT I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM IN WASHINGTON AND THAT WE WOULD OF COURSE WANT TO ASSIST HIM IN HAVING USEFUL CONVERSATIONS.
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